UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

Joseph J. Simons, Chairman Noah Joshua Phillips Rohit Chopra Rebecca Kelly Slaughter Christine S. Wilson

In the Matter of

SANDPIPER OF CALIFORNIA, INC., a corporation

C-4675

and

PIPERGEAR USA, INC., a corporation.

COMPLAINT

The Federal Trade Commission, having reason to believe that Sandpiper of California, Inc., a corporation, and PiperGear USA, Inc., a corporation (collectively, "Respondents"), have violated the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and it appearing to the Commission that this proceeding is in the public interest, alleges:

1. Respondent Sandpiper of California, Inc. ("Sandpiper") is a California corporation with its principal office or place of business at 687 Anita Street, Suite A, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

2. Respondent PiperGear USA, Inc. ("PiperGear") is a California corporation with its principal office or place of business at 687 Anita Street, Suite A, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

3. Respondents Sandpiper and PiperGear have operated as a common enterprise while engaging in the unlawful acts and practices alleged below. Because these Respondents have operated as a common enterprise, each of them is jointly and severally liable for the acts and practices alleged below.

4. Respondents have advertised, labeled, offered for sale, sold, and distributed products to consumers, including, but not limited to, backpacks and travel bags. Respondents advertise these products online, including, but not limited to, on their websites, sandpiperca.com and pipergearusa.com. Respondents offer for sale, sell, and distribute their products throughout the United States.

5. The acts and practices of Respondents alleged in this complaint have been in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

6. Respondents have disseminated or have caused to be disseminated advertisements and promotional materials for their products, including, but not necessarily limited to, the attached Exhibits A-D. These materials contain the following statements and depictions, among others:

A. "Featuring American Made products developed and manufactured by our sister company, PiperGear USA"

Featuring American Made products developed and manufactured by our sister company, PiperGear USA. We offer manufacturing options to meet Berry Amendment, NAFTA, GSA or Buy American Act requirements. The growth and success of our US manufacturing plant is a great source of pride to us.

(Exhibit A, Sandpiper website);

B. "Made in the USA"



(Exhibit B, PiperGear website);

C. "#madeinusa"



sandpiperofca It's all about the details... #sandpiperofcalifornia #soc #backpack #camouflage #camo #camping #madeinusa

(Exhibit C, Sandpiper Instagram posting); and

D. "U.S. Made by S.O.C."



(Exhibit D, Sandpiper Instagram posting, photograph of Sandpiper trade show material).

7. In numerous instances, including, but not limited to, the promotional materials referenced in Paragraph 6, Respondents have represented, expressly or by implication, that all of their backpacks, travel bags, and other products are all or virtually all made in the United States.

8. In fact, more than 95% of Respondent Sandpiper's products are imported as finished goods, and approximately 80% of Respondent PiperGear's products are either imported as finished goods or contain significant imported components. Respondents import products or components from Mexico and China. For certain wallets imported from Mexico as finished goods, Respondents hid truthful country-of-origin information on the back of tags, and inserted cards that prominently displayed false U.S.-origin claims.

9. Therefore, Respondents' express or implied representations that all of their products are made in the United States are false or unsubstantiated.

COUNT I (False or Unsubstantiated Representation)

10. In connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of their products, Respondents have represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that all of their products are all or virtually all made in the United States.

11. In fact, more than 95% of Respondent Sandpiper's products are wholly imported, and approximately 80% of Respondent PiperGear's products are either imported as finished goods or contain significant imported components. Therefore, the representation set forth in Paragraph 10 is false or misleading, or was not substantiated at the time the representation was made.

VIOLATION OF SECTION 5

12. The acts and practices of Respondents as alleged in this complaint constitute unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce in violation of Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

THEREFORE, the Federal Trade Commission this sixteenth day of April, 2019, has issued this Complaint against Respondents.

By the Commission, Commissioner Slaughter and Commissioner Chopra dissenting.

April J. Tabor Acting Secretary

SEAL:





HOME PRODUCTS

USER PHOTOS COMPANY CONTACT

MEDIA

COMPANY

Sandpiper of California

Established in 1980, SOC produced and sold products primarily in Southern California. You will find SOC products in retail locations around the world. For over 3 decades our quest for quality has been a progression to provide the best products for our customers. Our basic philosophy is to provide a great product at a fair price, and provide superior customer service.

Featuring American Made products developed and manufactured by our sister company, PiperGear USA. We offer manufacturing options to meet Berry Amendment, NAFTA, GSA or Buy American Act requirements. The growth and success of our US manufacturing plant is a great source of pride to us.

Working with law enforcement and US military personnel is an honor and privilege, and essential to our success by providing relevant product designs and features.

By keeping it simple we maintain consistency in our manufacturing guality and service levels, while improving our products and increasing sales growth opportunities. We invite new retail partners and manufacturing opportunities no matter how big or small.



Piper Gear

SANDPIPER OF CALIFORNIA

QUALITY TRAVEL BAGS & BACKPACKS SINCE 1980

Recreational and outdoors collection. Great for hikes, day trips or school. Modern colors and contemporary designs.



PGUSA

Piper Gear USA is the manufacturing sister company of Sandpiper of California. PG USA provides additional options to customers providing materials and assembly to cover the full range of manufacturing requirements. Berry Amendment, Buy American Act, NAFTA, as well as overseas production.

http://www.pipergearusa.com/



Founder: David Jacobs

AVAILABLE

COMPANY EXECUTIVES

Morton Hollaender Chief Financial Officer morton@pipergear.com

Sandpiper of California | Company

FOLLOW US	4	Facebook		Twitter	¥	YouTube		O Instagram			
PRODUCTS											
EXPLORE											
ABOUT US											
Sandpiper of California	687 Anita Street, Suite A Chilla Vista CA 01011		(619) 424-2222	info@sandpiperca.com			Get E-mail Updates!		SUBMIT		

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http://www.sandpiperca.com/company.php[1/25/2018 1:41:12 PM]



PIPERGEAR USA Sewn Goods Design AND MANUFACTURING





MADE IN THE



PiperGear USA

PiperGear USA, Inc. is the manufacturing sister company of Sandpiper of California, Inc. PiperGear USA was established in 2007 as a solution to provide the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) with Berry Amendment compliant products. Located in Chula Vista, California, just 6 miles from downtown San Diego, California, PiperGear USA is now a leading manufacturer of tactical nylon products and sewn goods equipment. Read more...

HOME

- TACTICAL GEAR
- PACKS, POUCHES & BAGS
- CUSTOM DESIGNS
- PROTOTYPES

- BERRY COMPLIANT
- BUY AMERICAN ACT
- NAFTA

CONTACT

OVERSEAS PRODUCTION

PiperGear USA	
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687 Anita Street Chula Vista, CA 91911

(619) 424-2222

ABOUT US	

Services Contact PROTOTYPES Tactical Gear Packs Pouches

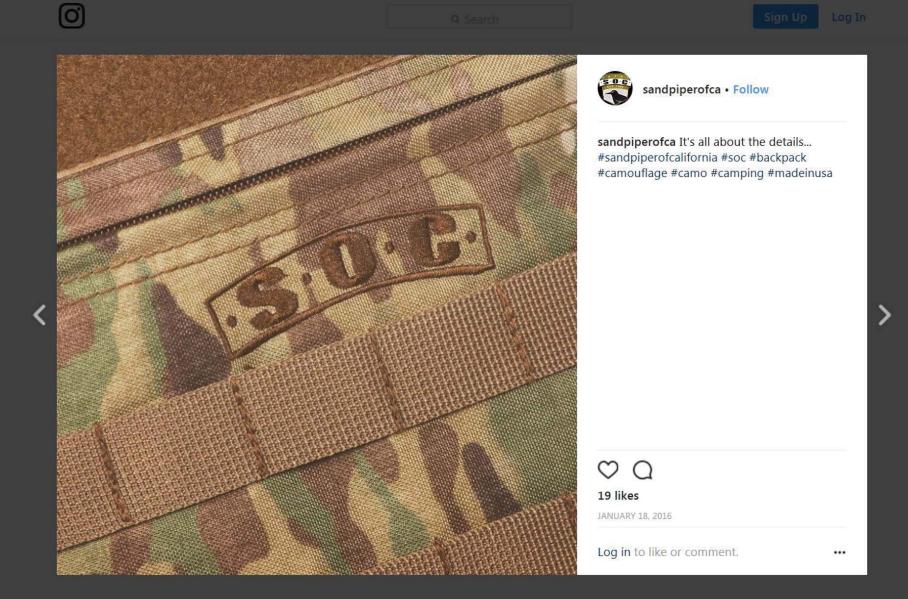
S.O.C. PRODUCTS

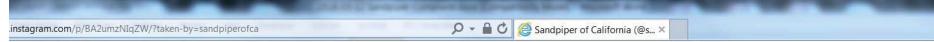
Gear Packs Bugout Zombie Pack Piper Gear Business & Travel ». U. U. Tacilicai Nearance & Overstock

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Tools Help

